

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting device comprising:
 - an ejector that is adapted to eject a liquid stored in a pressure chamber from an ejecting nozzle by applying pressure to the pressure chamber;
 - an ejection timing detector that is adapted to detect a liquid column being ejected from the ejecting nozzle;
 - a droplet separator that is adapted to give, to the liquid column, an energy that separates the liquid column from the liquid stored in the pressure chamber; and
 - a controller that is adapted to control the droplet separator to give an energy at a timing when a predetermined time period has elapsed since the ejection of the liquid column detected by the ejection timing detector.

2-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting method, comprising:
 - ejecting a liquid stored in a pressure chamber from an ejecting nozzle by applying pressure to the pressure chamber;
 - detecting a liquid column being ejected from the ejecting nozzle; and

giving, to the liquid column, an energy that separates the liquid column from the liquid stored in the pressure chamber, the energy being given at a timing when a predetermined time period has elapsed since the ejection of the liquid column.

12. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting method according to Claim 11, wherein the energy is optical energy.

13. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting method according to Claim 12, wherein the optical energy is coherent-light energy.

14. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting method according to Claim 12, wherein the optical energy comprises plural light beams traveling in different directions.

15. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting method according to Claim 12, wherein the optical energy comprises at least two light beams traveling in opposite directions.

16. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting method according to Claim 11, wherein the energy is thermal energy.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting method according to Claim 11, wherein a longer period is set as the predetermined time period where a volume of liquid to be ejected is larger.

19. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting method according to Claim 11, further comprising:

emitting light from a light emitter onto the liquid column; and receiving, by a photo receiver, the light emitted from the light emitter through the liquid, the receiver facing the light emitter through the liquid column, wherein the ejection of the liquid column is detected in response to a change in an intensity of light received by the photo-receiver.

20. (Previously Presented) A droplet ejecting method according to Claim 19, further comprising:

increasing the energy of the light emitted by the light emitter at a timing when a predetermined time period has elapsed since the ejection of the liquid column, wherein the energy to be given to the liquid column is provided by the light emitted by the light emitter.

21-31. (Cancelled)